

SIC 1/2

Approved by SIC  
13 October 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: SIC WORKING COMMITTEES

SUBJECT: Activities of SIC Working Committees

1. The SIC has reviewed the activities of SIC working committees from the time of their inception through the latest reports or other information received from them. It is the consensus of the SIC that the working committees have, for the most part, done a creditable job in organizing for coordinating the work of the various intelligence agencies, and for carrying out their other missions.

2. In analyzing the pattern of activities of certain committees, specific procedures and objectives are recognized which should be emphasized and extended to cover all of the committees. Re-emphasis of the basic responsibilities is also desirable for the purpose of over-all guidance and to insure uniformity of purpose. These matters are discussed below with subparagraphs referring to the similar paragraphs of DCID 3/3, paragraph 4:

a. Formulation of National Requirements

Each committee should prepare as a matter of highest priority the National Requirements for production of intelligence in its specific field of responsibility. These requirements are based upon the need for intelligence by the policy and planning levels of the government. Attention is invited to JAEIC paper entitled: "Atomic Energy Intelligence--USSR--Major Objectives", dated 24 March 1950, which defines the requirements for production of intelligence in the atomic energy field. It also provides in paragraph 2, the results which may be achieved upon attainment of these objectives and in paragraph 3, the reason for the critical need for this information.

b. Preparation of Interdepartmental Production Plans

This step follows logically after step a. above, and translates the need for intelligence, or the objectives of the committee, into a plan for presentation of the information derived from its activities. If the committees do not have a specific plan in mind, it is suggested that they prepare a semi-annual estimate as of 1 January and 1 July each year indicating the current status of research and development in the USSR for their particular specialty.

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c. Evaluation of the Adequacy of Collection Activities

The opinions of the working committees, concurred in by the SIC, that inadequacies in the collection of scientific and technical intelligence are the most critical factor facing us today, warrant emphasis on this responsibility. Greatest progress toward solution of the problem appears to be in those fields where working committees:

- (1) Have consolidated requirements and are jointly focussing their attention on the most complete guidance possible to collectors.
- (2) Have established master files of requirements to prevent duplication and overlaps.
- (3) Have selected specific targets for exploitation by every collection means available, utilizing all background material for guidance in such exploitation.

It is recommended that working committees continue the efforts noted above and concentrate on giving the most complete guidance possible to the regular collection agencies. In this connection, CIA collectors have commented repeatedly that evaluation and follow-up on specific reports, when coordinated in the SIC working committees and submitted promptly, are the most valuable guidance they have.

d. Allocation of Production Responsibilities

This step also follows logically after a. and b. above in that appropriate allocation of production responsibilities is essential for an equitable distribution of the work load. To this end it is essential that the committees have before them the production schedules for the individual departments and that each item be evaluated, first with respect to the need as stated by the department, and second as to the most expeditious manner in which production may be accomplished. Joint action with respect to individual agency production items will eliminate much of the duplication, particularly in the processing of raw information and its translation into finished production.

e. Informing of Work in Progress and Maintenance of Exchange of Information

Except for the joint action indicated as essential in d. above, it is the sense of the SIC that the working committees are doing a creditable job of informing of the interested agencies of work in progress and in the maintenance

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of the fullest exchange of information available. The SIC fully concurs in the procedures for exchanging and discussing unevaluated information in committees.

f. The Preparation of Coordinated Reports

This responsibility has been developed more rapidly in some committees than in others. In some cases, however, a reluctance on the part of committees to submit a report, formally concurred in by the member agencies, has been noted. DCID 3/3 specifically gives the committees the authority to produce reports, showing IAC concurrence or non-concurrence. In order that there may be no question of interference with agency policy in such reports, it is recommended that a suitable notation be made on the front of each report indicating that the paper has the formal concurrence of the agencies concerned insofar as substantive intelligence matters are concerned but that this in no way implies concurrence with respect to agency policy. All coordinated reports submitted by working committees will be issued under the title of the committee concerned with reference that the document is disseminated by CIA for control purposes.

3. An additional responsibility with respect to NIS Chapter VII has recently been assigned to the working committees. While it is desirable that the NIS program be considered separately because of the established control procedures and format for this type of production, it is hoped that the committees can integrate the planning and development of their separate NIS responsibilities with their other SIC responsibilities. This is particularly important because of the difficulty in defining the difference between current and basic scientific intelligence. It may well be that material which has been produced for NIS and which is considered by the committee to be more truly current intelligence, can be disseminated as a coordinated report instead of included in the NIS.

4. It is hoped that the committees will refer questions concerning the suggestions noted above, or other matters in which they have difficulty to the SIC. While inclusion of reference to such matters in the minutes of the committee is in order, each item for which specific action is desired should be made the subject of a separate memorandum to the Chairman, SIC.

H. M. CHADWELL  
Chairman, SIC